DENZELL HOLLIS Esq;

HIS SPEECH

At the delivery of the PROTESTATION TO the Lords of the upper House of *Parliament*, 4. *May*, 1641.

Wherein is set forth the reasons that moved the house of Commons to make the said PROTESTATION:

Together with

A Short Narration of the severall grievances of the KINGDOME.

London Printed, 1641.

The Speech of Master Holles Esquire.

My Lords,

THe Knights, and Burgesses, of the house of Commons, having taken into consideration the present estate and condition of this Kingdome, they finde it surrounded with variety of pernitious and destructory designes, practises and plots, against the wel-being of it, nay, the very being of it, and some of those designes hatched within our owne bowels, and Viper-like working our owne destruction.

They finde Jesuits and Priests conspiring with ill Ministers of State to destroy our religion, they finde ill Ministers conjoyned together to subvert our Lawes and liberties, they finde obstructions of justice, which is the life and blood of every estate, and having free passage from the Soveraigne power, where it is primarily seated as the life and blood in the heart, and thence derived through the judicatories, on through so many veines into all the parts of this great Collective Body, doth give warmth and motion to every part and member which is nourished and enlivened by it, but being once precluded, stopped, and reared up, as the particular must needs faint, and languish, so must the whole frame of Government be dissolved.

And consequently, Soveraignty it selfe which (as the heart in the body, is *primum vivens, & ultimum moriens*, must die and perish in the generall dissolution, and all things as in the beginning *in antiquum Chaos*.

My Lords, They finde the property of the subject invaded and violated, his estate rent from him by illegall taxations, Monopolies, and projects almost upon every thing that is for the use of man, not only upon superfluities, but necessaries, and all to enrich the Vermine and Caterpillers of the Court, and impoverish good subjects, to take the Messe from the Children, and give it to Dogs.

My Lords, If the Commons finde these things, they conceive they must needs be ill Counsels that have brought us into this condition. These

Theſe Counſels have put all into a combuſtion, have diſcouraged the hearts of all true Engliſh men, and brought two Armies into our bowels, which is the Vulture upon *Prometheus*, eates through, and ſucks and gnawes our very hearts out. *His Dolor, ſed ubi Medicina?*

Heretofore Parliaments were the Catholicall, the balme of Gilead, which healed our wounds, reſtored our ſpirits, and made up the breaches of the Land.

But of late yeares they have been like the fig-tree in the Goſpell, without efficacy, without fruit, only deſtructive to their particular members, who diſcharged their duties and conſciences, no way beneficiall to the Common-wealth. *Nobis exitiale, nec Reipublica profuturum,* As he ſaid in *Tacitus*, being taken away ſtill as *Elias* was with a whirle-winde, never comming to any maturity, or to their naturall end, whereas they ſhould be like the bleſſed old man, who dyeth, *plenus dierum*, in a full age after he had fought a good fight, and overcome all his enemies, or as the ſhock of wheat, which commeth in due ſeaſon to fill our Granaries with Corne, uphold our lives with the ſtaffe of bread, for Parliaments are our *panis quotidianus*, our true bread, all other waies are but *Quelkachoes* which yeeld no true nouriſhment, bread, nor good blood.

The very Parliament which hath ſate ſo long, hath but beat the aire, and ſtrive againſt the ſtreame, I may truly ſay the winde and tide hath been ſtill againſt us. The ſame ill Counſell which firſt raiſed the ſtorme, and almoſt ſhipwrackt the Common-wealth, they ſtill continue, they blow ſtrong like the Eaſt winde that brought the Locuſts over our Counſels, croſſe our deſignes, caſt difficulties in our way, hinder our proceedings, and make all that we doe to be fruitleſſe and ineffectuall: They make us not maſters of our buſineſſe, and ſo not maſters of mony, which have been the great buſineſſe of this Parliament, that we might pay the Armies, according to our promiſes and engagements.

For my Lords, our not effecting of the good things

which

which we had undertaken, for the good of the Church, and of the Common-wealth, hath wounded our reputation, and taken off from our credit.

Is it not time then my Lords, that we should unite and concentrate our selves, in regard of this *Antiperistasis*, of hurtfull and malicious intentions and practices against us?

My Lords, it is most agreeable to nature, and I am sure most agreeable to reason, in respect of the present conjuncture of our affaires, for one maine engine by which our enemies worke our mischiefe, is by infusing an opinion and beliefe into the world, that we are not united among our selves. But like *Sampsons* Foxes, wee draw severall waies, and tend to severall ends.

To defeat the Counsels of these *Achitophels*, which would involve us, Our Religion, our being, our Lawes, our liberties, all that can be neare and deare unto an honest soule, in one universall and generall desolation; to defeat I say, the Counsels of evill *Achitophels*; the Knights, Citizens & Burgesses of the house of commons (knowing themselves to be specially entrusted with the preservation of the whole, and in their Conscience are perswaded that the dangers are so eminent, as they will admit of no delay) have thought fit to declare their united affections by entring into an association amongst themselves, and by making a solemne protestation and vow unto their God, that they will unanimously endeavour to oppose and prevent the Counsels and Counsellors which have brought upon us all these miseries, and the feares of greater, to prevent the ends and bring the Authors of them to condigne punishment, and thereby discharge themselves better before God and man.

The Protestation your Lordships shall have read unto you, together with the ground and reasons which have induced the house of Commons to make it, which are prefixed before it by way of Preamble. Then the Protestation was read by M. *Maynard*.

UMI